

## **Solicitation for Proposals**

### **Consumer Operated Business**

#### **Written Questions and Answers**

**February 3, 2011**

**1. Q.** Does the attestation, (the Consumer Status Verification form) include addictive disorders?

A. A diagnosis of serious mental illness that is defined in the DSM-IV, or newer versions of the DSM, is acceptable for the purposes of this solicitation.

**2. Q.** What does the, “peer support activity within an existing clubhouse”, (mentioned in paragraph 2 of the solicitation) refer to?

A. The mention of “peer support activity within an existing clubhouse” was intended to imply that consumers who are users of a clubhouse may be able to create a consumer run project that might be housed in a clubhouse. This was meant to be a suggestion to help respondents understand the broad scope of projects that may be evaluated. This particular portion of the solicitation was written to include examples of what may be funded. Staff and members of an International Center for Clubhouse Development certified clubhouse may need to decide if this offering falls within the bounds of the International Standards for Clubhouse Programs.

**3. Q.** Will these awards pay clubhouse staff salaries?

A. This offering is not intended to support existing clubhouse staff roles. We will not be funding any clubhouse staff salaries.

**4. Q.** Can this include projects such as theatre to normalize seeking assistance for mental health issues in our greater society?

A. Yes. Integration and normalization are important public policy issues that may be supported by consumers of services.

**5. Q.** Can this include projects such as theatre to normalize conversation/discussion of mental health issues in our greater society?

A. Yes. Momentum for the normalization of use of mental health services is growing nationally. Consumers may submit proposals for these types of projects.

**6. Q.** Is there a minimum number of consumers who must be involved with the project, or may the award be given to only one full-time person working on behalf of other consumers?

A. The proposal must be authored by a consumer, or a group of consumers. There is no minimum or maximum limit to the number of those who could participate. Funds may be used to support a consumer who is working to complete a project whose proposal was selected.

**7. Q.** Will the award pay for the hiring of either consumers or non-consumers to assist with the development of a project?

A. It is the State's intent to directly support consumers of services with these awards. A project may include non-consumers as partners in the development of the project. Proposals will be evaluated based on its' ability to demonstrate that a project is authored and directed by consumers.

**8. Q.** Will the award pay for the hiring of either consumers or non-consumers to execute the project?

A. It is the State's intent to directly support consumers of services with these awards. A project may include non-consumers as partners in the execution of the project. Proposals will be evaluated based on its' ability to demonstrate that a project is authored and directed by consumers.

**9. Q.** My proposal includes a Steering Committee consisting of primarily non-consumers. Would it be better for me to apply as an individual or on behalf of my affiliated organizations, which are; National Alliance on Mental Illness, and Awareness of Mental Health through the Performing Arts?

A. It is the State's intent to directly support consumers of services with these awards. We would not support a project authored by organizations that are not exclusively consumer operated. Consumers who are members of these other organizations can submit proposals as unaffiliated individual consumers or as a group of unaffiliated consumers. Projects can include these other organizations as partners; as long as, the proposal is written by consumer(s) and consumer(s) direct and control the project activity.

**10. Q.** Is this a start-up grant, or a grant to direct fund programs?

A. This funding opportunity may be used to fund the start-up of projects and/or programs that consumers are currently operating. Any activity/project that meets the guidelines published in the request for funding/solicitation for proposals will be evaluated.

**11. Q.** Can these funds be used to develop Certified Recovery Specialist positions?

A. Yes. These funds may be used to develop formal relationships to provide formal peer support and/or Certified Recovery Specialist positions. Partnerships and agreements between consumers and community providers can be supported.

**12. Q.** Why can't I open the attachments?

A. The attachments can be opened using the Adobe Acrobat Reader. This program is free and can be downloaded quickly. It can be found at the Adobe Acrobat website.